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Security Council

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Identical letters dated 2 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 2 December 2002 from Mr. Naji Sabri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the bombing by United States and British aircraft of the oil installations of the South Oil Company, Basra.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Aldouri**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 2 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

At 0615 hours on 1 December 2002, United States and British aircraft bombed the installations of the South Oil Company near a residential district of the city of Basra. Four citizens died in the bombing, including three employees of the South Oil Company, and 27 were wounded, including 10 company employees. The raid also destroyed many installations, a great deal of technical apparatus and many fully equipped buildings belonging to the South Oil Company.

This new crime committed by the United States of America and the United Kingdom forms part of the campaign to escalate terrorist aggression by those two countries against Iraq, one feature of which is an increase in aggressive air raids in the two illegal no-flight zones, averaging 30 to 40 raids per day and targeting Iraqi civilian and military installations and destroying the economic and oil infrastructure and granaries.

The imposition and enforcement of the two illegal no-flight zones is a tyrannical act and a flagrant breach of the Charter of the United Nations and the established principles of international law and constitutes a serious threat to regional and international peace and security. It is also a clear material breach of the resolutions of the Security Council relating to Iraq which have affirmed the sovereignty and political independence of Iraq and the inviolability of its territory. We hope that, in accordance with your responsibilities as specified in Article 99 of the Charter, you will draw the attention of the Security Council to the nature of this aggression and to the danger it poses to peace and security in the region and throughout the world and we request the Security Council to carry out its duties under Article 39 of the Charter concerning action to be taken in the event of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression.

The international community has condemned the imposition by the United States and the United Kingdom of the two no-flight zones and the use of armed force to make it effective, and has seen it as an act of blatant aggression against an independent State and has called for it to be ended immediately.

While you take measures to ensure that this barbarous terrorist aggression is brought to an end and that the Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom are held fully responsible for it, the people and the fearless army of Iraq will continue to exercise Iraq's right to legitimate self defence as established in the Charter of the United Nations and in international law.

(*Signed*) Naji **Sabri**
Minister for Foreign Affairs